5

10

15

## ABSTRACT

An image processing method and image processing apparatus in which the densities around the object pixel are integrated and re-allocated. Level division means divides an original image belonging to a scanning window into specific division levels or divides re-allocated image data and inputted image data into specific division levels. Means for calculation of allocation values by levels finds the sum of re-allocation values by division levels and adds a multi-leveling error in case of specific levels. Furthermore, the means finds an allocation number and residual by dividing the sum thus obtained by the maximum value within the division level. Means for re-allocation by levels allocates, by division levels, the maximum values and residuals within the respective division levels in the allocation number according to the rank order obtained by ranking means and stores the data in storage means for re-allocation by levels. Then, the values at the position of the object pixel in storage means for re-allocation by levels are multi-leveled.